Villages covered with non-conventional energy sources in Karnataka

352. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENGERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Karnataka covered with Non-Conventional Energy sources so far;

(b) how many villages are proposed to be provided with Non-Conventional Energy in Karnataka; and

(c) what are the incentives being given to promote Non-Conventional Energy sources in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing a remote village electrification programme with the aim to electrify all remote census villages through non-conventional energy sources. 21 remote villages have been identified in Karnataka for electrification through non-conventional energy sources under this programme. 5 villages and 8 hamlets are proposed to be electrified in the State during 2004-05.

(c) The Ministry is providing Central Financial Assistance up to 90% of the cost of the projects under the remote village electrification programme, with specific benchmarks linked with technologies adopted for electrification, throughout the country, including Karnataka.

Slow pace of rural electrification

353. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's electricity generation is one of the slowest growing infrastructure sector in the country and has had a huge negative fallout on rural India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 43 per cent of the rural households have access to electricity;

(c) if so, the present status of rural electrification; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to improve the electricity generation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The growth of electricity generation in the country during the year 2003-2004 was 5.0%.

(b) and (c) As per 2001 Census, 43.5% of rural households have access to electricity. As on 31st March, 2004,80.80% of inhabited villages have been electrified.

(d) The following steps are being taken to improve the generation and availability of power in the country:

(i) A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted for Tenth Five Year Plan consisting of 22,832 MW in Central Sector, 11,157 MW in State Sector and 7,121 MW in Private Sector.

(ii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in PLF of thermal units.

(iii) Creation of a robust National Grid for optimum utilization of generation capacity and inter-regional transmission of power.

(iv) Disbursement of loans with interest subsidy by the Power Finance Corporation for renovation and modernization of old and inefficient generating units.

(v) Exploitation of hydro potential at a fast pace.

(vi) Demand side management, energy efficiency and conservation measures.

Losses due to handing over power distribution to private sector in Delhi

†354. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a loss of Rs. 6000 crore has been estimated in Delhi due to the abolition of the erstwhile DVB and handing over the responsibility of Power distribution to the Private Sector companies during recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at the time of handing over the power distribution work to the Private Sector any norm for profits had been fixed for these companies; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.